

Ceremony celebrates new leadership for 32nd Medical Brigade

By Lori Newman
FSH Public Affairs

The Soldiers and commanders of the 32nd Medical Brigade stood on MacArthur Parade Field ready to welcome their new commander as Col. Randall Anderson relinquished command to Col. William LaChance during a July 22 ceremony.

"A change of command is a time where we collectively reflect on the mission and mission accomplishment of a unit under the leadership of its commander and command team," said Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, commander, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School and chief of the Army Medical Service Corps.

"During his tenure [Anderson] coached and mentored 46 company commanders, and six battalion commanders in the brigades 24 units." Rubenstein said. "He also

assumed administrative control for four tactical units during a period that included numerous deployments and reintegrations."

Anderson was also instrumental in establishing a second Forward Operating Base for training combat medics at

Camp Bullis, the general said.

Rubenstein tried to sum up Anderson's command in a single sentence, saying "Despite the challenges of this command, [Anderson] never lost focus on the primary mission of the brigade – to safely train Soldiers for war."

The general wished LaChance and his Family success during their time at the brigade.

"[Col.] Bill LaChance understands Soldiers and he understands Soldiering. He also under-

filled with heroes who volunteered to serve our country. Thank you for serving. I am honored to have been a part of your brigade."

"It is with great pleasure that I turn this brigade over to my good friend, [Col.] Bill LaChance, and his wife, Candace. I know he will lead with the dedication and leadership he has shown in his previous commands," Anderson said.

LaChance thanked the general for allowing him to be part of his team.

He also thanked

Anderson for what he called, "a truly first-class transition," and wished him well at his new position as the director of the Army's Medical Capabilities Integration Center at the AMEDDC&S.

"I am both honored and humbled by the trust placed in me by this command. These are exciting and challenging times here at Fort Sam, and frankly, there is no place I would rather be,"

LaChance said.

"I look forward to working with the Fort Sam community, the [AMEDD] Center & School and the [Medical Education and Training Center] staff as we collectively shape the future of Army medicine and military medicine."



Photo by Lori Newman

Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein (center) passes the colors to Col. William LaChance (left) charging him with the command of the 32nd Medical Brigade during the ceremony held July 22 at MacArthur Parade Field as outgoing commander, Col. Randall Anderson (right) looks on.

stands the brigade's critical role in the life of the Soldier," Rubenstein said.

"He will use his extensive knowledge to command with passion; with a mix of heart and head."

Anderson addressed the Soldiers of the brigade saying, "We are an Army at war and this brigade is



Col. Daniel Reese speaks to the crowd after taking command of the U.S. Army Dental Command July 15.

Reese takes reins at U.S. Army Dental Command

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

Early on a sweltering San Antonio morning July 15, the leadership of the U.S. Army Dental Command changed hands, with Col. Daniel Reese taking the helm of a command that stretches across the U.S., Europe and the Pacific and sees more than 26,600 patients daily.

Outgoing commander Col. M. Ted Wong was promoted to major general and also named chief of the Army Dental Corps later in the day.

Wong will report to Fort Bliss, in El Paso, Texas, to take over as commanding general of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center. He had served as DENCOM commander since July 10, 2008.

"We are truly surprised how quickly the past few years have gone by," Wong said. "We have been blessed to have had this opportunity and to have worked with such outstanding people. This command is frequently cited as the best job in the Army. I couldn't agree more."

"This command has really gone through some challenges in the past few years and is instrumental in retaining the readiness of the Army," said Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General and commander, U.S. Army Medical Command. "With every challenge, Ted's guidance and leadership has been instrumental."

"Being commander of the Army Dental Command has been the highlight of my career so far," Wong said of his tenure. "It's been an assignment that's allowed me to lead dental professionals, officers, enlisted and civilians – over 2,800 strong – providing the best dental health care to every Soldier in the Army."

"Dental Command truly demonstrated its character, perseverance, innovation and adaptability by launching multiple programs, transforming into what it is today and enduring changes on many fronts, all while ensuring the dental readiness of 300,000 deploying Soldiers."



Photos by Steve Elliott

Outgoing commander of the U.S. Army Dental Command Col. M. Ted Wong accepts congratulations from Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general of U.S. Army South, after the change of command ceremony for the U.S. Army Dental Command July 15.

"As you take command of one of the Army Medical Command's real treasures and one of the Army's keys to force readiness, know that the Dental Command lives up to its motto of 'Global Care,'" Schoomaker said to Reese as he took the reins of DENCOM.

"It is my distinct honor to accept to accept this responsibility. I realize it's an awesome privilege to be a commander," said Reese, who was formerly chief of staff at Army Dental Command. "The Dental Command's mission of providing oral health care to our nation's warriors will remain as our singular focus."

"Army values are non-negotiable for me and a way of life that must guide everything we do as we move forward."

LEDFORD RETIRES

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Ledford marked the end of a 26-year Army career with a June 16 ceremony. Ledford devoted 22 of those years to military intelligence. Distinctive among the awards he received during the ceremony was the prestigious Knowlton Award, named after Lt. Col. Thomas Knowlton, a brave Soldier whom Gen. George Washington appointed to raise the first regiment for intelligence services within the American Army. The Military Intelligence Corps Association bestowed this award on Ledford as an individual who the organization determined to have "contributed significantly to the promotion of Army intelligence in ways that stand out in the eyes of their superiors, subordinates and peers" and who demonstrated "the highest standards of integrity and moral character."



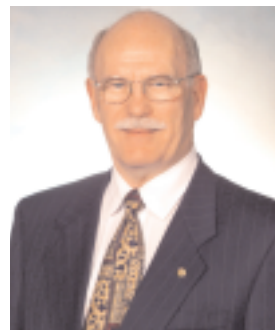
Photo by Greg Ripps

TRANSITIONS



Robert Graves, deputy to the commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and one of the prime architects of Joint Base San Antonio will return to retirement on July 30. Col. Bob Bridgford will be Graves' replacement. Reflecting on his experience with JB SA during its first year, Graves pointed out that in his 43 years of government service this is only the third time he's had an opportunity to start a new organization. "I have mixed feelings about my departure. I love the place, I love the work, I love the people and I'm going to miss that mightily when I go back into retirement," he said. "This doesn't come around very often that you get to be in on the ground floor of something."

GRAVES RETIRES



Courtesy photo

14TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

Lt. Col. Kris Arnold addresses the Soldiers of the 14th Military Intelligence Battalion on MacArthur Field after assuming command of the battalion July 27.



SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION



(Left to right) Lt. Col. Scot N. Storey, Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, and Lt. Col. Charles A. Walters Jr., stand at attention during a change of command ceremony at MacArthur Field July 16. Walters received the unit colors of the Special Troops Battalion, U.S. Army South from Storey during the ceremony. Trombitas is the U.S. Army South commanding general.



Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas passes the U.S. Army South, Special Troops Battalion's unit colors to Lt. Col. Charles A. Walters Jr. during a change-of-command at MacArthur Field July 16. Walters took command of the STB from Lt. Col. Scot N. Storey during the ceremony. Trombitas is the U.S. Army South commanding general.

Photos by Pfc. Andrew S. Valles



Photos by Greg Ripps

Lt. Col. Kris Arnold (left) receives the colors of the 14th Military Intelligence Battalion from Col. Jim Lee, 470th MI Brigade commander, symbolizing the transfer of battalion command to Arnold. The change of command ceremony took place on MacArthur Field July 27. The 14th MI Battalion, a subordinate unit of the 470th MI Brigade, recently redeployed from Iraq after a one-year interrogation mission.

5TH BRIGADE U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND



Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command, passes the colors to Col. Bridget Rourke signifying his trust in her to take command of the 5th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command during a ceremony at Army Community Service July 21.



Photos by Lori Newman

Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, commanding general, U.S. Army Cadet Command congratulates Col. Verb Washington after pinning him with the Legion of Merit medal July 21 during a ceremony at Army Community Service as his wife Kathleen stands beside him. Washington retired after 26 years of service.